

been an integral tool for historians writing about the Battle of the Bulge. To document his own vivid account as a war correspondent, he published his memoir, "Into the Jaws of Death."

Mr. Stern has not only documented the events he has witnessed, but has also made every effort to educate Americans through his personal accounts of his wartime experiences. He has served as a lecturer at the Newhouse School of Communication at Syracuse University and has made countless appearances on television to expose the American public to the realities of war. In addition to his role as educator, Mr. Stern currently acts as a trustee of the Intrepid Museum Foundation, a trustee of the Fisher House Foundation, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research at Rockefeller University, and the editor-in-chief of Fisher House Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today in honor of Michael Stern, who has dedicated his life to bringing the reality of war home for Americans to understand and appreciate. I ask that my colleagues join with me in this well-deserved tribute to Mr. Stern and in celebration of his 86 years of experience and dedication to wartime journalism and education.

GORDON MCALLISTER: A SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, whenever people ask me what ever happened to people who care about their community and their neighbors, I have the good fortune to tell them about people like Gordon McAllister, a special individual who for many years has served his community professionally, personally, and has taken the time to help people remember valuable lessons from our past.

Gordon McAllister has served as a police official in several capacities ever since his graduation from high school. He served as an Air Police officer with the United States Air Force. He then worked as a security officer for General Motors for 3 years, followed by another 3 years as a State Commissioned, Michigan State Railroad Police Detective.

For the past 27 years, Gordon has served as a member of the Bay City Police Department. For 8 years he was a patrol officer, and for 19 a detective corporal. During this time he earned 14 department commendations and numerous letters of merit from citizens and businessmen. Even more notable is that while performing in an exemplary fashion he continued to better himself by obtaining a bachelor of arts degree in Criminal Justice from Saginaw Valley State University.

He has personally been involved in many charitable events. Most notably he has been the local chairman for the National Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics for several years.

Most recently, Gordon earned the National Merit Award from the Sons of the Civil War for coordinating a salute to Civil War Veterans including songs and poems of the era, at the Vassar, Michigan, Riverside Cemetery. This program was a tribute to all veterans, particu-

larly those from the Civil War, and marked the 100th anniversary of the dedication of a monument which bears the names of more than 200 Civil War veterans at the cemetery, including his great, great-grandfather, William Bassett Stark, who served in the 34th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

With all of this public service, Gordon still believes his greatest success is investing in his family and their future—his help with his three children Darren, Darneal, and Brandon, attaining their college degrees.

Mr. Speaker, what happened to people who care about their community and their neighbors? One of them—Gordon McAllister—lives in Bay City, MI. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in recognizing his wonderful contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NORMAN SISISKY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably absent during tests related to my chemotherapy. Had I been present during consideration of H.R. 2391, the Compensatory Time Act, I would have voted against the bill.

AGENT ORANGE BENEFITS ACT OF 1996

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Agent Orange Benefits Act of 1996. The legislation provides necessary medical care and compensation to a new class of citizens who have sacrificed their health in the defense of our Nation—the children of agent orange-exposed Vietnam veterans who were born with Spina Bifida.

The legislation, proposed by the administration after close coordination with veterans services organizations and the disabilities community, is the result of a process set into place by the Agent Orange Act of 1991. The act established the process in which the National Academy of Sciences' [NAS] Institute of Medicine [IOM] issues reports every 2 years on the existing scientific evidence relating to Vietnam veterans' exposure to agent orange. The IOM's latest report confirmed what Vietnam veterans have known all along—that agent orange has and will continue to exact a high price on themselves and their families. The report specifically found that there is limited suggestive evidence of an association between agent orange exposure to vets and the occurrence of spina bifida in their children.

The bill I am introducing today is consistent with legislative action we have taken in the past with respect to veterans who suffered from conditions in the "second tier" of the NAS report. As with previous legislative relief we have granted veterans, my bill ensures that the VA has the authority to provide health care and appropriate compensation. Specifically, the bill gives the Secretary of the VA the authority to provide the extensive medical help

needed by children suffering from spina bifida, including important case management services. The bill also gives the Secretary the flexibility to contract for care from private sources to ensure that appropriate medical services are provided.

I applaud the administration's quick and decisive movement on this issue. In particular, Secretary Brown should be congratulated for the strong action he took in ensuring that the administration proposed comprehensive legislation that guarantees that these children will be properly cared for and compensated.

I hope that we can take quick action on this legislation. The bottom line is that we have sick children who have paid the price because of their father's service to our Nation. They need and deserve the best that our nation can give them. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO HISPANIC-AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute our Hispanic-American veterans and to share with you a few of the experiences of these brave men and women. On August 23 and 24, 1996, the California Occupational Foundation, under the leadership of Gus Hernandez, will be having a dinner and parade to recognize the contributions of our Hispanic-American veterans.

It is important that we recognize our Nation's Hispanic-American veterans, men and women who answered the call to defend freedom and democracy. Since the American Revolution, Hispanic Americans have courageously served, and in many cases died for our country. During the Civil War, an estimated 10,000 Hispanic-American soldiers fought in either the Union or Confederate Armies. Because of a language barrier, few Hispanic Americans saw any combat during World War I. But by World War II, with the language barrier broken, approximately 500,000 Hispanic-American soldiers helped the Allies defeat the Axis powers. Hispanic Americans have also served in Korea, Vietnam, and in Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Today, there are approximately 1 million living Hispanic-American veterans. Currently, Hispanic-Americans make up 5 percent of our Nation's active duty armed forces personnel.

Among these heroes is Marine PFC Guy Gabaldon, who with distinction captured more enemy soldiers than anyone else in the history of U.S. military conflicts. PFC Gabaldon captured over 1,000 Japanese soldiers during World War II. Also included are eight men who selflessly gave their lives for our country, continuing a tradition of honor rooted in a small street in Silvis, IL. Although the street is only large enough to accommodate 22 families, it has produced 84 brave men who fought in either World War II, Korea, or Vietnam. Once named Second Street, this small block has been renamed Hero Street U.S.A. and stands as a monument to these American heroes.

Most notable are the 41 Hispanic Americans who have been awarded our Nation's most prestigious and highest military decoration, the